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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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16 November 1964

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India: [Homi Bhabha, chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, has expressed deep concern that the Chinese nuclear explosion will lead to diminution of India's national stature.]

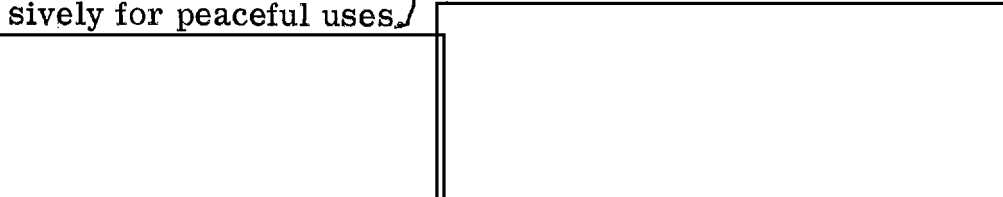
[Bhabha recently asserted to the Canadian high commissioner in Delhi that the most secure course for India would be to place itself under a US nuclear umbrella. He was, however, uncertain that such a guarantee would be honored if the Soviet Union at some future time supported China and threatened the US with nuclear retaliation. Only a joint US-USSR guarantee-- a proposal Bhabha characterized as hardly realistic-- would satisfy this objection.]

[Bhabha's principal worry, however, appeared to be generated by the belief that Peiping would gain influence and prestige at India's expense. He indicated that Communist China, if admitted to the UN, should not be given the fifth permanent seat on the Security Council unless similar recognition were accorded India.]

[Indian production facilities for nuclear weapons probably are adequate to produce an atomic weapon in a few years' time. Despite the emergence of some domestic sentiment favoring the development of such weapons, the Shastri government has publicly stuck to its official position of using atomic energy exclusively for peaceful uses.]

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South Vietnam: Premier Tran Van Huong is vigorously resisting efforts of various political and religious pressure groups to force a government re-organization.

In a public interpellation session before the High National Council on Friday, Huong defended the competency of his ministers, and asked only that they be given a chance. He bluntly warned the council that if it insisted on changes, it would have to accept the responsibility for formally discharging the government.

Protest rallies against the government by student groups in Saigon this past weekend did not amount to much. Huong's no-nonsense attitude, backed up by reinforced police, apparently served as a deterrent.

Over and above Huong's own performance, however, it appears that significant elements among the opposition groups are counseling a wait-and-see posture for the present. Huong's government therefore may not yet have been put to its real test.

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Sudan: The removal of President Abboud yesterday leaves virtually all political power in the hands of the revolutionary National Front.

The Front, which had been the chief voice calling for Abboud's ouster, appears to have vague supervisory authority over the civilian cabinet. Communist elements in the Front were responsible for instigating attacks on the US and Egyptian embassies in Khartoum last week in the Front's name.

These incidents, however, appear to have led to some diminution of Communist influence in the Front. An 11-man secretariat, set up after the riots, is to speak for the Front in the future. Only two Communists are represented on this body.

Communist activity has probably alarmed much of the army, which is generally anti-Communist. The removal of Abboud, who for years has been a father figure in army circles, is likely to further disturb the military. There is no evidence, however, that they are planning any early action.

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NOTES

Bolivia: Argentina and Brazil will restore normal diplomatic relations with Bolivia, according to the Argentine foreign minister. Several other Latin American governments, who have heretofore been reluctant to take the initiative, will probably follow suit. Recognition will bolster the new military junta, but will not deter opposition elements from their efforts to build a position from which they hope they will eventually be able to challenge the junta.

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Israel-Syria: Although both sides appear anxious to localize last week's incidents, tensions remain high along the border. Despite press reports that the Jordanian and Iraqi armies have been alerted, there is no evidence of special military activity on the part of the Arab states. The UN Security Council will consider the matter today.

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Iraq: The new cabinet formed on Saturday represents a victory for pro-Nasirist elements in their continuing struggle with those who oppose early union with Egypt. These elements dominate a cabinet which retains all the leading prounion members from the previous cabinet and whose new members are also conspicuous Nasirists. However, antiunion sentiment remains strong in the army and throughout the country, and it is unlikely that the struggle has been finally resolved.

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Cambodia-US: Prince Sihanouk is threatening to close the US Embassy in Phnom Penh on the charge that it is a center of subversion. He told subordinates recently that the issue was "grave," and that a "decision" would have to be made by the National Assembly which is scheduled to convene today. In the past, Sihanouk has passed the buck to the National Assembly when he has had no intention of following through on threats to break relations with the US, but he seems to be under growing pressure to make good this time.

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